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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

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COUNTRY	East Germany	DATE DISTR.	17 September 1953
SUBJECT	Statements by Norden after the Uprisings	NO. OF PAGES	1
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SOURCE

1. Albert Norden believed that the restraint with which the Soviet troops acted on 17 June, was motivated by a fear that the Americans might intervene with force. The permission to fire had been given by General Dibrova only when the German population had tried to pour gasoline over Soviet tanks. Norden also stated that the Russians in Karlshorst expected new provocations on the side of the Americans, but that the Russians would thwart these schemes by continuing their peace policy.
2. According to Norden, the Soviets intended to send large quantities of fowl and fish to East Berlin. After Molotov had rejected the American food offer, the East German government was preparing an offer for a large-scale expansion of intra-German trade. The offer for such a deal was expected to have a favorable effect in the psychological warfare conducted against Adenauer's government.
3. The SED still held 200 persons, including 500 West Berliners, in prisons. The prisoners were charged of being instigators of and participants in the unrest of 17 June. Karlshorst had given orders that the trials against these persons were to be conducted in public and that the defendants were permitted to choose their own counsel for the defense. Karlshorst had further ordered that sentences against East Berliners should not be inflicted, while punishments were to be imposed upon West Berliners.

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